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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4944
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF 77 PRAGUE 3469

1. SUMMARY: CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE BEGAN DELIBERATIONS MARCH 15, AS HAD BEEN WIDELY EXPECTED. GENSEC HUSAK DELIVERED PRESIDIUM REPORT WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE MEAGRE INFORMATION MADE PUBLIC SO FAR, DEALT WITH POLITICAL QUESTIONS INCLUDING PARTY INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. MEETING CONTINUES
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TODAY AND PROBABLY MARCH 17. PRESIDIUM REPORT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION MARCH 18. END SUMMARY.
2. ELEVENTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, FIRST WORKING SESSION SINCE EARLY DECEMBER (REFTEL), APPEARS TO BE LARGER THAN NORMAL, INCLUDES COMMUNIST MINISTERS OF NATIONAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, REGIONAL SECRETARIES DOWN TO AND INCLUDING LOCAL (OBVOD) LEVEL, TRADE UNION SECRETARIES AND CC STAFF,

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AS WELL AS "OTHER GUESTS." DECEMBER MEETING WAS NINTH SINCE FIFTEENTH

CPCZ CONGRESS, AND WE THINK CEREMONIAL JOINT SESSION WITH GOVERNMENT
HELD FEBRUARY 23 MUST HAVE COUNTED AS TENTH, THOUGH IT
WAS NOT SO BILLED AT THAT TIME.

3. ACCORDING TO RUDE PRAVO ACCOUNT MARCH 16, PRESIDIUM REPORT,
READ BY HUSAK AT MORNING SESSION CHAIRED BY PREMIER
STROUGAL, DEVOTED "SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION" TO "QUESTIONS OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF OUR SOCIALIST SOCIETY,
THE NATIONAL FRONT AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY." IN ADDITION, THE REPORT
IS SAID TO DEAL WITH "IMPROVEMENT" OF PARTY RANKS AND "UPGRADING"
OF THE PARTY'S "IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL LEVEL." REPORT MAKES
MENTION OF THE "GROWING NEED" TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF
IDEOLOGICAL WORK AND HIGHLIGHTS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
"CRITICISM, SELF-CRITICIMS AND LENINIST CADRE POLICY."

4. IN AFTERNOON SESSION, CHAIRED BY SLOVAK PREMIER
COLOTKA, SEVERAL SPEAKERS, INCLUDING CZECH PREMIER KORCAK
AND LEADING SECRETARIES OF CZECH REGIONS, DISCUSSED
PRIMARILY PLAN FULFILLMENT. VASIL BILAK SPOKE
OFFOREIGN POLICY, REAFFIRMED "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALIST" LINE
AND REPORTED ON THE RECENT BUDAPEST MEETING OF PARTY
SECRETARIES.

5. COMMENT: JUDGING BY ITS SIZE AND THE RUMORS WHICH
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HAVE PRECEDED IT, PRESENT SESSION COULD PROVE ESPECIALLY
INTERESTING. MENTION OF CADRE POLICY SUGGESTS SOME PERSONNEL
CHANGES MAY BE IN THE OFFING, BUT, IF SO, WE WOULD EXPECT THEM
TO OCCUR BELOW TOP LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP. BASED ON THE "SIGNIFICANT
ATTENTION" DEVOTED TO " DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM," WE WOULD

NOT CONSIDER AN ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE OF SOME SORT OUT OF THE QUESTION.

CC DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC PERHAPS WILL INCLUDE REVIEW OF HOW
PARTY HAS BEEN COPING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. A RECENT
SPATE OF RUMORS ABOUT "ECONOMIC REFORMS" LEADS US TO
BELIEVE THIS SUBJECT TOO WILL RECEIVE SOME ATTENTION.

6. DECONTROL FOUR YEARS AFTER RECEIPT OF MESSAGE.
BYRNE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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